

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

LACEY, WASHINGTON
JANUARY 19, 2006

The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in regular session at the Washington State Conservation Commission on January 19, 2006 in Lacey, Washington. Commission Chair Brown called the meeting to order at 8:32 p.m.

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS & ACTION ITEMS

1. *Consent Agenda*

Commission Vice Chair Boyum moved to approve the December 1, 2005 Regular Minutes, December 20, 2005 Special Meeting Minutes and the Revised Commission Member, Executive Director and Designees Travel Policy. Commissioner Eriksen seconded.

Motion passed.

2. *Amended 1994 Appointing Supervisors Policy*

Commissioner Eriksen moved to approve the proposed amendment to the 1994 Appointing Supervisors Policy. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Bahrych moved to add "or have a property interest in" after the sentence "Newly appointed supervisors must reside within the boundaries of the conservation district served" in the amendment to the 1994 Appointing Supervisors Policy. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Commissioner Colvin moved to table the motion to add "or have a property interest in". Commissioner Bahrych seconded.

Motion to Table Passed.

3. *Assessments*

Chair Brown noted that it would be appropriate for the Commission and staff to approach the Senator and indicate our concern, not undermining the process statewide, and ask if we could work with him on the request.

Senate Bill 6304 - Assessment Roll Back. If the Commission is called to testify, it was suggested that Mr. Clark should speak against the bill.

4. *Livestock/Dairy*

WACD Livestock Committee requested that the Commission wait until the Committee meets to propose a recommendation for Livestock TA. Commission staff agrees. There is still time for this biennium.

Mr. Clark will research and bring more information to the Commission regarding funding for dairies through another source.

Chair Brown asked Commission staff to work with WACD on how to engage more supervisors.

5. *Shared Strategy for Puget Sound*

Commissioner Bahrych moved that the Commission support the proposed Shared Strategy for Puget Sound Pioneers in Conservation Program in concept with the condition that the funding does not come from sources the Commission and the conservation districts rely on. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Commissioner Faulconer and Commissioner Selby abstained.

Motion passed.

6. Farm Plan Confidentiality

It was agreed that if a hearing is held to address the issues and not the solutions.

7. Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB)

Mr. Clark will work with Commissioner Peters, Bahrych, and Boyum in creating a memo from the Commission to Mr. Tharinger.

8. Commission Liaisons for WACD Committees

Chair Brown suggested that it would be appropriate for the Commission members to take an active role in supporting the programs and possibly assign a member that had primary responsibility for a program to be available for the committees and taskforces.

Chair Brown asked that the Commission members consider the suggestion and at the March Commission Meeting make assignments.

9. Odessa Aquifer Conservation Reserve Enhancement (CREP) Program Study

Commissioner Eriksen moves for the Commission to support the concept of the Odessa Aquifer Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Study and will work with the stakeholders to implement. Commissioner Boyum seconds.

Commissioner Faulconer and Selby abstained.

Motion passed.

10. WSCC Strategic Plan

Ms. Becker proposed that Commission staff pull those elements together and send a draft to the Commission prior to the March Commission meeting to provide feedback. A work session will be held prior to the tour in March.

11. Anaerobic Digester

The proposed plan will be reviewed for the relationship of the digester to water quality and the Hood Canal by Commissioner's Boyum, Selby, Faulconer, and Bahrych.

Mr. Clark will invite the Mason Conservation District to the March Meeting to give a presentation on the digester and the proposed plan.

12. Fish and Wildlife Commission

Commissioner Eriksen moved that the Commission investigate the feasibility of a Commissioner member attending and engage in the Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings. Commissioner Bahrych seconded.

Motion Passed.

13. Chair Brown asked the Commissioners to think about becoming a specialized lead member for each of the programs. This will be discussed at the March Commission Meeting.

ATTENDEES

Commission Members

Lynn Brown, Chair
Bill Boyum, DNR, Vice Chair
Jim Peters, Member
Lynn Bahrych, Member
Bob Barker, Member
Tracy Eriksen, Member
Fred Colvin, Member, WACD
Lee Faulconer, Member, AG

Commission Staff

Mark Clark, Executive Director
Mary Anderson, Executive Assistant
Stu Trefry, Regional Manager
Cheryl Witt, Grants Program Manager
Tom Salzer, Regional Manager
Bill Broughton, Regional Manager
Ray Ledgerwood, Program Coordinator
Kristy McGuill, Grants Specialist

Melodie Selby, Member, ECY
Cliff Moore, Designee, WSU

Karla Huttula, Grants Specialist
Eric Kopp, Grants Assistant

Guests

Ron Shavlik, NRCS
John Larson, WACD Executive Director
Sharonne O'Shea, Assistant ATG (telephonically)

Kim Simpson, WADE
Pat Boss, Odessa Aquifer Replenishment Coalition
Jay Gordon, Dairy Federation

ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA

Chair Brown opened discussion for additions or changes to the preliminary agenda.

Commissioner Selby requested lunch be moved to 12:30. It was agreed that lunch would be from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Pat Boss of Odessa Aquifer Replenishment Coalition will address the Commission after lunch.

Commissioner Eriksen requested a discussion on a Fish and Wildlife Commission representative.

INTRODUCTIONS & MEMBER/PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Commissioner Melodie Selby, Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit - Ecology and WSDA have been directed to move forward with developing statutory language to move NPDES permits for concentrated animal feeding operations from Ecology to WSDA. The agencies decided not to submit a bill this session, but a bill may be introduced. A draft bill is out for comment.

Public Disclosure on Farm Plans – Senate Bill 6617 as written has potential to cause problems with the NPDES permits. Ecology is seeking for clarification.

Commissioner Lee Faulconer, Department of Agriculture (Ag)

Growth Management – Working on the Governor's Land Use Package.

Bio-Energy – Provides real benefits for agriculture. Critical that we take action now.

Legislation – The agency is tracking natural resource bills.

Commissioner Bill Boyum, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Fire Strategic Plan – Ongoing. Fire service entities involved – rural to city.

Energy Rush – Wind towers, economics and tax benefits. Several firms of wind energy are looking across the state.

Commissioner Tracy Eriksen, Eastern Region

NRCS Issues – Due to the budget cuts at NRCS, there is not enough manpower help in his district for CRP.

Bio-diesel Plant – Built in Wilma in the fall. Canadian oil this year but will contract with Washington and Idaho acres for the plant next year.

Commissioner Robert Barker, Western Region

Digester – Whatcom has had the digester for a year. Some WSU faculties are involved in the project and are looking at the operation.

Commissioner Lynn Bahrych, Washington Environmental Council

Governor's Board and Commissions Training – A session on open meetings laws and interagency communication was useful.

Environmental Issues to the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) challenge to the EPA delegation to the Department of Agriculture. The foundation of GMA is protecting resource lands, critical areas and rural landscape. It is important to include the conservation districts and Commission in the language.

Kim Simpson, Washington Association of District Employees (WADE)

WADE Training – June 19-21, 2006. Preparations are underway.

Ron Shavlik, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

CRP – FSA took a major budget hit. Looking at using their employees to do the status reviews but will wait for a final decision from Jim Fitzgerald.

Budget – Still working through.

TSP Agreements – Requested funding came from districts. A small amount of EQIP dollars may be available.

Commissioner Fred Colvin, Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD)

Officers and Directors Meeting – February 15-16 Legislative Days in Olympia.

Legislative Activity – Rollback assessments, Open Records Act.

Puget Sound Taskforce – Meeting was held in Everett last week.

Forestry Committee – A meeting was held.

Urban Committee – Meeting held last week.

Cliff Moore, Designee for Commissioner Ed Adams - Washington State University

GMA – Thurston County out of compliance. The local office has been involved in helping with public input. Three meetings have been held, a few more are planned. The public process is very interesting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were given.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Commission Vice Chair Boyum moved to approve the December 1, 2005 Regular Minutes, December 20, 2005 Special Meeting Minutes and the Revised Commission Member, Executive Director and Designees Travel Policy. Commissioner Eriksen seconded.

Motion passed.

LEGAL BUSINESS

Amendment to the 1994 Appointing Supervisors Policy

Tom Salzer, Regional Manager, presented the proposed amendment to the existing policy recommended by the WACD District Operations Committee which included an incumbent clause pertaining to incumbents seeking reappointment need not be residents inside the conservation district.

Commissioner Eriksen moved to approve the proposed amendment to the 1994 Appointing Supervisors Policy. Commissioner Barker seconded.

Motion passed.

The Commission requested the staff recommendation. Mr. Salzer serves on the WACD District Operations Committee and agrees with the recommendation.

A discussion regarding the consistency in the appointment and elected process is desired.

1 **Commissioner Bahrych moved to add "or have a property interest in" after**
2 **the sentence "Newly appointed supervisors must reside within the**
3 **boundaries of the conservation district served" in the amendment to the**
4 **1994 Appointing Supervisors Policy. Commissioner Barker seconded.**

5 A lengthy discussion followed regarding the clarity of the policy.

6 **Commissioner Colvin moved to table the motion to add "or have a property**
7 **interest in". Commissioner Bahrych seconded.**

8 **Motion to Table Passed.**

9 ***Assessments***

10 Sharonne O'Shea Assistant Attorney General participated telephonically.

11 A request was made to the Attorney General's Office (AGO) from the Commission for a formal opinion
12 on issues relating to special assessments in November. That request was withdrawn for a period of time so
13 that the King County Council and King Conservation District could come to a mutual agreement.

14 A discussion was held in regard to whether to renew the request. It was reported that Senator Jacobsen was
15 considering requesting an AG's opinion on this issue. Discussion followed on whether Senator Jacobsen's
16 office would be willing to coordinate with the Commission or conservation districts. If there are multiple
17 requests on the same topic, Ms. O'Shea expects that only one opinion will be written to combine the
18 related issues.

19 It was noted that Commission staff is comfortable for conservation districts to move forward with
20 assessments without an AG opinion. Prior memos from the Attorney General have been received regarding
21 assessments. Clarification is helpful but not necessary to move forward with district assessments.

22 It was suggested that Commission staff coordinate and request for input, if possible, with Senator
23 Jacobsen's office if they are requesting an opinion.

24 Ms. O'Shea reiterated that there is still at least a 90-day turnaround for an opinion and reminded the
25 Commission that submissions requesting assessments are due to local governments at the end of the
26 summer. If the Commission waited for the other opinion, a quick turnaround would be needed from the
27 Commission for a supplemental request if the Commission wanted to add additional questions.

28 Once received by the AGO, the request would then become a public document. So, even if the
29 Commission was not able to get a copy in advance or to work with the potential requesting person to arrive
30 at a mutually acceptable request, they would be able to see what was asked and consider submitting a
31 request of their own.

32 Chair Brown noted that it would be appropriate for the Commission and staff to approach the Senator and
33 indicate our concern about undermining the process statewide, and ask if we could work with him on the
34 request.

35 Mark Clark, WSCC Executive Director expressed concern regarding the Senate Bill 6304 that would roll
36 back the assessment and asked for guidance in the event that the Commission is called to testify.

37 It was suggested that if the Commission was called upon to testify that Mr. Clark should speak against
38 the bill.

39 ***Graymarsh Update***

40 Negotiations continue to take place.

WSCC GRANTS PROGRAM

Capacity Building Grant Results

Cheryl Witt, Grants Program Manager, presented the information on the distribution. At a Special Meeting on November 7, 2006 the methodology for the distribution of the Capacity Building Grants was approved.

The Commission received an additional funding of \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2006 and \$100,000 for Fiscal Year 2007 to be used to support the critical infrastructure of conservation districts as they assist land managers with meeting locally identified goals aimed at achieving natural resource protection, enhancement and restoration.

Capacity Building Grants are available to conservation districts that demonstrate financial need as well as the ability to use the funding for capacity building within their district or in combination with another district. Fiscal Year 2006 funding is available through June 30, 2006.

The Ranking Committee consisting of Commission Grants staff and Regional Managers, John Larson (WACD Executive Director) and Doug Rushton (WACD District Operations Committee) were present to rank the application requests. Commissioner Peters was unable to attend due to illness.

Thirty four applications were received. The applications were ranked according to the approved process. The result was to fund twelve conservation districts.

In order to evaluate the applications, districts were requested to submit the Fiscal Year 2004 financial reports along with the applications which helped clarify which monies available to the district.

Ms. Witt stated that a meeting will be held by the District Operations Committee in February to develop the 2007 Capacity Building Grants Program recommendation.

John Larson, WACD Executive Director noted that he appreciated participating on the Ranking Committee. The relationship to Commission Grants staff, Regional Managers and WACD building cooperation for the distribution was important. The process allows building cases on true capacity needs of districts, where the districts are headed, the next step and the criteria of need.

A discussion was held regarding the criteria for the funding.

Livestock Technical Assistance Funding Distribution

Ms. Witt presented the corrected Phase 2 Technical Assistance (TA) Funding Distribution.

On December 20, 2005, the Commission authorized Phase 2 Livestock TA awards to conservation districts based on an application process. Commission awards resulted in a total Priority 1 award of \$261,650, a total Priority 2 award of \$461, 897, with the remaining \$17,189 of available funding distributed to Thurston Conservation District.

A few of the conservation district misunderstood the instructions for calculating technical assistance needs. Conversations with those districts and a re-crunching of the numbers resulted in a total Priority 1 award of \$256,661, a total Priority 2 award of \$396,484. This resulted in \$70,401 of additional technical assistance funding being available.

As a result of the Phase 1 TA funding distribution, twelve "old dairy" districts received TA funding in addition to the Needs Assessment amount of \$5,000. These districts were expected to deliver technical assistance to operators in addition to Conducting the Needs Assessment.

Phase 2 TA funding is being added to unspent Phase 1 TA funds in order to bring the level of funding up to the district's award amount. This calculation can only be done after the district submits vouchering through December 2005. Since not all December vouchers have been received, it is likely the amount will increase. So far, this has resulted in \$41,351 of additional TA funding being available.

1 The WACD Livestock Committee will hold a teleconference next week regarding the funding distribution.
2 WACD Livestock Committee requested that the Commission wait until the Committee meets to propose
3 a recommendation for Livestock TA. Commission staff agrees. There is still time for this biennium.

4 A discussion was held regarding the distribution process, the value and investment of current technical
5 assistance employees, and the continuing needs of dairy. There are lots of unmet needs. Districts
6 responded that most of the unmet needs deal with small farm issues and noncommercial facilities.

7 Dairy has not yet been defined for technical assistance. There is a need to find out what and how much
8 support is needed for the dairy districts. The programs need to be defined and communicated with the
9 districts. This will help us build a decision funding package. The Department of Agriculture supports this
10 need.

11 By March some suggestions may be made. It is important to have the capacity within the districts to meet
12 these needs. A clustering program was suggested using coverage area instead of district area, consider
13 funding the technical assistant person differently, or a pilot program with the monies left over.

14 Mr. Clark will research and bring more information to the Commission regarding funding for dairies
15 through another source.

16 The Commission would like to have more district supervisors engaged on the WACD committees as well
17 as the district's input as well.

18 Mr. Larson applauded the Commission's desire to have input from the local levels. Input needs to be
19 accurate, realistic and supervisor driven. It is the supervisor's role to be involved.

20 Chair Brown asked Commission staff to work with WACD on how to engage more supervisors.

21
22 **RECOGNITION OF THE PAST COMMISSION CHAIR**

23 A plaque was presented to Commissioner Peters for his exemplary service as the 2005 Commission Chair
24 by Chair Brown and Vice Chair Boyum.

25
26 **COMMISSION OPERATIONS**

27 ***Shared Strategy for Puget Sound – Pioneers in Conservation Program Federal Earmark***

28 Jim Kramer, Executive Director of the Shared Strategy for Puget Sound and Don Stuart, Pacific Northwest
29 States Director of the American Farmland Trust, attended the Commission work session prior to the
30 Commission meeting and presented information about the Pioneers in Conservation Program.

31 Mr. Clark stated that Shared Strategy for Puget Sound is proposing to seek a federal earmark from a new
32 resource for the program. It is also their intent to have the program monies appropriated through the
33 Commission and distributed to the Puget Sound area conservation districts. Mr. Kramer is seeking support
34 from the Commission for the program's federal earmark.

35 Mr. Clark noted that this program would link to the Governor's priorities. They are asking for Commission
36 support as well as support from Washington Association of Conservation Districts (WACD). Shared
37 Strategy is planning to move the proposal the first week of February.

38 Mr. Jay Gordon, Executive Director of the Dairy Federation reiterated the importance of agriculture in the
39 program and is an official piece in the Endangered Species Act recovery in Puget Sound.

40 A discussion followed regarding a new resource for funding the program. Funding should not come out of
41 resources available now.

1 **Commissioner Bahrych moved that the Commission support the proposed**
2 **Shared Strategy for Puget Sound Pioneers in Conservation Program in**
3 **concept with the condition that the funding does not come from sources the**
4 **Commission and conservation districts rely on Commissioner Barker**
5 **seconded.**

6 **Commissioner Faulconer and Commissioner Selby abstained.**

7 **Motion passed.**

8 A discussion followed regarding the federal budget. The delegation will look to the states and request their
9 priority funding.

10 ***Farm Plan Confidentiality***

11 Mr. Clark reported that the Whidbey Island pending bill will be heard next week on public disclosure on
12 farm bills. There will be an interagency meeting held for input from those agencies that are affected.

13 Mr. Clark stated that he will request that the conservation plans be pushed up to the Governor's office in
14 the same way the land use issues are.

15 It was agreed that if a hearing is held, Mr. Clark should address the issues and avoid talking about the
16 solutions.

17 ***Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB) Update***

18 Mr. Clark gave an overview of the grant awards from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

19 Steve Tharinger, SRFB Member, will be heading an issues task force to look at the next round of SRFB
20 grants. The next step will be to look at distribution of the funding for the highest potential to recover
21 important stocks.

22 Mr. Clark will work with Commissioner Peters, Bahrych, and Boyum in creating a memo from the
23 Commission to Mr. Tharinger.

24 ***Commission Liaisons for WACD Committees***

25 Mr. Clark noted that he would like to cut down the time Regional Managers spend on WACD Committees
26 and Taskforces.

27 It was noted earlier that it is the Commission's desire to have more supervisors engaged on the committees
28 and taskforces.

29 Chair Brown suggested that it would be appropriate for the Commission members to take an active role in
30 supporting the programs and possibly assign a member that had primary responsibility for a program to be
31 available for the committees and taskforces.

32 Chair Brown asked that the Commission members consider the suggestion and at the March Commission
33 Meeting make assignments.

34 ***Technical Service Provider (TSP) Status***

35 The \$500,000 Contribution Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for
36 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) was signed December 21, 2005 and approved by the
37 Office of Financial Management on January 5, 2006. Currently, there is \$79,087 in TSP work committed
38 through six Task Orders.

39 John Larson, WACD Executive Director and Ray Ledgerwood, WSCC Program Coordinator, personally
40 surveyed the district supervisors on possible budget requests for the unencumbered money. The latest
41 survey indicates eleven additional conservation districts will be participating for a total of \$196,923.

Washington Association of District Employee's Annual Training

Ray Ledgerwood is working with the Washington Association of District Employees (WADE) on their annual training event. Regional Managers will solicit districts based on their needs and what they would like help on. An analysis of those needs will be done within the next few months. The training will be organized so that it fits the districts needs.

Conservation District Employee's Training Needs & Experience Inventory for District Non-Engineering Practice Certification & TSP Eligibility

There is a need to better document the skills of the conservation districts technical employees and anticipate training needs and the capability of districts to deliver technical assistance. An inventory activity will be performed. This inventory will identify practices that a district needs to be certified on. Thanks to NRCS for the criteria to set up the standards.

Rich Baden, Harold Crose, Joe Holtrop, George Boggs and Ray Ledgerwood make up the team. Gerald Rouse has assisted the group with the development of a data collection model and Frank Easter has also provided the group with technical support.

A more detailed concept report will be given to the Commission at the March meeting. Experience data is still being collected from the districts.

Kim Simpson, WADE Vice President is currently coordinating the effort for the WADE training. Ms. Simpson is looking forward in the future to offer technical certification training at the WADE Annual Training. It is a great opportunity to draw together a statewide skills training.

A discussion followed regarding the need for certification.

Odessa Aquifer Conservation Reserve Enhancement (CREP) Program Study

Pat Boss, Odessa Aquifer Replenishment Coalition presented information on the proposed program and handed out the State of Idaho's proposal. There is support from the Columbia Basin Development League.

Mr. Clark stated that the proposal is an idea and authorization to get people to support and move ahead. It would be at least 18 months before any landowner contracts could be signed. This is a state agency and federal collaboration to put a CREP together to assist the Odessa Aquifer. Challenges are considerable but doable and this could help to stabilize the aquifer situation. Saved water would be put in a trust program.

Mr. Clark would like to see the Commission endorsement to begin working through the process if the legislature should approve it. Mr. Clark also noted that he has spoken to Valoria Loveland, Director of Department of Agriculture about the program. They agreed that the program should be producer driven.

Commissioner Eriksen moves for the Commission to support the concept of the Odessa Aquifer Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Study and will work with the stakeholders to implement. Commissioner Boyum seconds.

Commissioner Faulconer and Selby abstained.

Motion passed.

A discussion was held regarding the need for a full time employee if the program becomes reality. A budget proviso could include the full time employee.

Priorities of Government (POG) III

Debbie Becker, Administrative Programs gave an overview of the POG process.

Four meetings have been held and most of the work completed until fall 2006.

The two indicators and strategies that most affect the Commission are:

- 1 ■ Preserve, maintain and restore natural systems and landscapes – Indicator/Reportable is cumulative
- 2 number of streamside acres enrolled in riparian buffer programs. (All buffers installed through
- 3 grant programs rather than just the CREP Program)
- 4 ■ Change individual practices and choices – Indicator/Reportable is number of landowners and acres
- 5 voluntarily participating in conservation plan development and implementation.

6 Agency responsibilities for the interim are still being formulated. It is possible that the Commission staff

7 will be participating in several additional meetings with other natural resource agencies through the spring

8 and summer preparing responses to the Office of Financial Management assignments. When those are

9 known, they will be reported to the Commission Members.

10 ***WSCC Strategic Plan***

11 Ms. Becker reported that there are new strategic plan instructions in the 2007-09 Budget Proposal.

12 They are due to the Office of Financial Management by the end of August 2006. Elements of the strategic

13 plan are linked to the POG III strategies and due by May 1, 2006.

14 Ms. Becker proposed that Commission staff pull those elements together and send a draft to the

15 Commission prior to the March Commission meeting to provide feedback. A work session will be held

16 prior to the tour in March.

17 ***Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) Task Group***

18 Bill Broughton, Regional Manager, reported that the CRM Task Group has had a busy quarter. They are

19 currently following up on the interviewing process and will offer the position to the selected candidate

20 soon.

21 Linda Hardesty is the new Chair. They would like to offer more basic CRM training - primary and

22 advanced as well as facilitation training. Ms. Hardesty would like to follow up with the CRM groups

23 already out there. They need a jump start and need the practitioners to get out there and motivate

24 movement.

25 Ron Shavlik expressed appreciation for the Commission's willingness to take over from Washington State

26 University. Work needs to be done on the group. Mr. Shavlik also thanked the Commission and Ray

27 Ledgerwood for their support on the tour.

28 The Task Group thanked the Kittitas County Conservation District for putting the tour together.

29 A quarterly report will be given to the Commission.

30 ***Kittitas County Conservation District Irrigation Request***

31 Mark Clark reviewed the letter written to Representative Frank Chopp from the Kittitas County

32 Conservation District Board of Supervisors dated December 14, 2005.

33 A discussion was held concerning how WACD and the Commission should be involved in such legislative

34 proposals.

35 ***Anaerobic Digester***

36 The Commission has an obligation to report on the funding program and review for the digester system.

37 The proposed plan from the Mason Conservation District will be requested.

38 The proposed plan will be reviewed for the relationship of the digester to water quality and the Hood

39 Canal by Commissioner's Boyum, Selby, Faulconer, and Bahrych.

40 Mr. Clark will invite the Mason Conservation District to the March Meeting to give a presentation on the

41 digester and the proposed plan.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Eriksen moved that the Commission investigate the feasibility of a Commissioner member attending and engage in the Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings. Commissioner Bahrych seconded.

Motion passed.

A discussion followed. It is the desire of the Commission to collaborate with the Fish and Wildlife Commission. It would be beneficial for a Commission member to attend their meetings.

Commissioner Peters thanked the Commission staff for their help when he was the Commission Chair.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were given.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Chair Brown asked the Commissioners to think about becoming a specialized lead member for each of the programs. This will be discussed at the March Commission Meeting.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

Regular Commission Meeting:

May 16, 2006 – Field Tour coordinated by the Kittitas County Conservation District and no host Interaction Dinner.

May 17, 2006 – Planning Work Session
Hal Holmes Community Center
209 N. Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926

May 18, 2006 - Regular Commission Meeting
Hal Holmes Community Center
209 N. Ruby Street
Ellensburg, WA 98926

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.